

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR

WEDNESDAY : : JANUARY 20

RULE OF MAJORITIES.

The best doctors are those who not only deprecate the use of patent medicine instead of their professional prescriptions, but who frankly help one to avoid drugging his system with any medicines and to live a wholesome life. And so it is with panaceas for public evils. As long as human passion, ignorance, selfishness and greed sway the actions of individuals, they will control the course of any political body, be it nation, state, county, city or township, which such individuals manage or direct. What else can be expected? To expect temperate, intelligent, public spirited acts from a set of individuals who do not even know the meaning of such acts, is to expect figs from thistles. Such men do not learn habits of self-restraint, of regard for the needs or rights of others by the exercise of power over others. They may rant about civil liberty, the equality of mankind and the wisdom of majorities, they may work Lincoln's famous words of "Government of the people, for the people and by the people" to sanction their vicious use of power over their fellow men; but they do not change their natures.

Shall we then say that self-government is a failure, popular institutions a snare and a delusion, and that a constitutional monarchy, supported and also restrained by an intelligent aristocracy is safer than democracy? To say that would be a confession of failure of American institutions. And with all its weakness and its frequent opportunities for corrupt practices, the Republic is steadily developing power to restrain domestic turbulence and corruption, and is gaining each year more and more respect from the nations of the world.

The fact is, to paraphrase a genial Kentuckian's sentiment, "all whiskey is good whiskey, but some is better than others;" all governments have their inherent faults, but some have less than others. The rule of one man, or of a few men, does not educate the many in the practice of self-restraint and in showing regard for the rights of others.

The only saving principle of a safe democracy is that intelligence and not ignorance shall dominate. As a choice between evils, some persons may prefer a plutocracy to a democracy which has a large admixture of the criminal and ignorant classes. There is, however, no other way of making a democracy anything else but a rule of the worst elements in society, by the worst and for the worst, except for those who know what civic virtue means to exert themselves to control the vicious, be they rich or poor, and enlighten the ignorant.

SHIPBUILDING FOR NAVIES.

A field of large business enterprise, as yet unexploited in America, is the building of first-class ships of war on speculation. Within ten years past there have been five occasions when anybody with a spare battleship or cruiser could have got two prices for it. A decade ago and less Japan went after every warship then on the market and bought two or three, including the Chilean Esmeralda. A few years before that time the Balmaceda government in Chile offered the United States a round price for the Baltimore, Yorktown and Charleston. Greece would have bought battleships, could she have found them, during the war with Turkey. In 1898 the United States scoured the dockyards of the world for purchasable ships and got the New Orleans and Albany from Brazil. And lately the Japanese have paid \$7,500,000 for two Italian cruisers that could not have cost more than \$5,000,000, and are understood to have purchased some Argentine cruisers besides. Had there been an American shipyard extant during the past few months, with a ready-to-move squadron for sale, Russia and Japan would have bidden it up to an extraordinary price.

Nor would the United States be a bad customer to look after. A shipyard, employing the best experts and doing as honest work as the Scotts did on the Oregon, could dispose of a good many vessels at home. An extra knot secured above the average speed of battleships of its class, for instance, would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to it. Of course, in such an enterprise, vast capital would be required, but the United States, which will soon have its billionaires, need not worry about that.

Joseph Chamberlain will have to succeed quickly, if at all. Though the man of the hour in Great Britain he is in his seventieth year. At that age, in this country, most political leaders cease to lead. But lately Andrew D. White retired from a diplomatic post because he had reached three score years and ten. Fancy him starting out now to lead a new political crusade and make himself the master of a great party.

THE WILES OF POLITICS.

A subtle campaign is being made in the Mainland press against President Roosevelt—one which seeks to undermine his popularity without openly challenging it. Skillful writers have been employed to frame anecdotes about the President in a vein of good fellowship, telling things which seem jovial and rollicking enough until they are thought over when they leave a bad taste in the mouth. The first impression from some of these stories is that the President has good red blood and is not unduly starched; the second and more lasting one is that his conduct is reckless and undignified, of a kind far more suitable for a Colonel of Rough Riders than for a President of the United States.

Here are some of the current anecdotes:

The President takes more physical exercise than any other man in Washington. His favorite enjoyment is to go horseback riding and to get somebody to go with him. If the President can't ride very well, the President is fond of dropping back a bit, and then riding up at a hard gallop and shouting a cowboy "Whoopie!" at the top of his voice. He does this to Senator Lodge very often, and Lodge hangs grimly to the pommel of the saddle while the President laughs.

Ten to one there is nothing true in this; or if there is, that some trivial incident has been magnified and distorted. But the Democratic campaigners know very well how sour it will make old-fashioned, frosty-headed Republicans, who believe in dignity.

One more anecdote to show the trend:

When he isn't excited his favorite words of emphasis are "By Godfrey!" and "By Jove!" The President is a very hearty eater. His appetite is prodigious. He likes a bottle of white wine with his dinner. He drinks very little besides that. The President says he is "de-light-ed" fifty times a day. He is "de-light-ed" to see you, "de-light-ed" to hear you are well, and "de-light-ed" everything else.

That, with the other story about the President's profane remark to a Methodist Governor out West, is deftly calculated to alienate the temperance man and the church member.

We may expect this sort of campaigning to go on not only until the post-convention lines are drawn between Roosevelt and his opponent but until the election registers its decree. It is plain that the Democrats are not only trying to undermine public respect for the President so as to make votes against him, but to form a contrast in character between their supposititious Roosevelt and the Democratic nominee, which will make to the advantage of their own man. The latter, it is easy to see, will be conventional to the last hair of his head; some somber, correct, slow-speaking lay-figure of a man who never ruffled the surface of society with an idea nor made a remark in angular Saxon. We almost see him now in the act of addressing a vast Chautauqua Circle, patting young Sunday school children on the head and saying, "Ah I am and all I expect to be I owe to my dear Bible class teacher."

DEMOCRATS AND THE CANAL.

If the Democrats of the Senate, of whom there are enough to destroy the chances of the canal treaty providing a few insurgents stick on the Republican side, are actually going to fight it, the chances of getting a canal may be called dubious. Historically the Democrats are for an isthmian waterway. They declared for it more than half a century ago and have since denounced the Republican party for not digging it. But in the face of exigent politics they stand ready, as they have done so many times before, to throw principles afar and plight their troth to expediency. Rather than let the Republican party add a canal to its great achievements they would oppose building one; rather than forego the chance to raise a filibustering issue against Roosevelt they would annul the treaty with Panama and turn that young republic over to the vengeance of Colombia; rather than forego the bribe of the railroad interests which are ready to pay the cost of a campaign against Roosevelt, they would repudiate their own declarations and let the note-in-hand they gave the world so long ago go on file protested.

It is a fault of our Republican system of government that on great projects of world utility and of special domestic advantage, the people and their leaders cannot act as citizens rather than as partisans. For fifteen years the United States was left undisturbed either by modern forts or ships because the politicians did not dare appropriate. The Democrats would do nothing in Congress to add to the achievements of a Republican administration nor to give it control of large bodies of mechanics and laborers such as a program of defence-building would call for. The Pan-American conference was made abortive largely by factional opposition. But for the same bad influence we should have long ago had all Samoa. Even harbor improvement has become more or less of a political issue and the organization of the Army was so until lately, when it emerged into national favor by sheer force of circumstances.

Perhaps, in the present emergency, Roosevelt may engineer the treaty

through the Senate, but with a united opposition there, the prospects could not be called bright. They are made the darker because the general election is coming on. To be sure the President has still the authorization of the last Congress to go ahead and make purchases, but the failure of the treaty would amount to the repeal of this special privilege and the President would hardly feel free to go on.

The modern sky-scraper as it is now in evidence will soon be dwarfed by an office building which Henry C. Frick and Bird S. Coler will put up in New York. Starting at bed rock, five stories, or eighty feet below the surface, this structure will rise to a height of forty stories and a sixty-foot tower, making 615 feet above the surface. The cost of the site will be \$5,000,000 and of the structure \$4,500,000. Six per cent net is expected of office buildings in New York, which would require an annual earning capacity of this one of about \$600,000. To locally realize the height of the new sky-scraper, it is only necessary to compare with it that of Punchbowl, which, at its highest point above the sea, registers 117 feet less. Even the tower of Babel was not so high by nine feet.

Fancy the remarks of the travel-worn war correspondents when they reach the peaceful environs of Yokohama and hear the far off purr of the Russian bear as his back is being scratched by an artless Japanese maiden.

It did not take the new King of Servia long to Peter out.

U. S. G. WHITE AND HIS BACK PAY

In the case of Civil Engr. U. S. G. White, vs. United States before the Supreme Court of the United States, claiming retrospectively five years' credit, notice has already appeared here of the decision adverse to the claimant under the Personnel act. The opinion of the court has now been printed for distribution. Some of the material points in this case, giving a complete idea of the ground on which the decision of the court was made, are as follows:

"The part of the statute particularly under consideration in this case, and upon the interpretation of which the right of the claimant depends, is contained in the third paragraph: 'And that all officers, who have been or may be appointed to the Navy from civil life shall, on the date of appointment, be credited, for computing their pay, with five years' service.' * * *

"The reading of the statute is not altogether clear, and we are to arrive at the meaning of Congress by such aids as may be legitimately resorted to in order to determine the effect and purpose of the lawmaking power in the language used. The statute is part of a voluminous act to reorganize and increase the efficiency of the personnel of the Navy and Marine Corps of the United States. In the title, the language used looks to the future; it contemplates a readjustment of rank and pay. It is true that the title of the act may not control the plain language of the enacting clauses, but nevertheless we may look to the declared scope and purpose of the act as evidenced by its title whenever it becomes necessary, in view of the use of language, incapable by itself of exact construction. * * *

"But it is urged that the plain meaning of this statute includes officers in the situation of the claimant and requires a readjustment of their pay for years past. The language used is 'all officers that have been or may be appointed to the Navy from civil life,' and it is claimed that unless this construction is given to the act, violence is done to its terms, and to the rights intended to be conferred upon the claimant and other officers similarly situated. The proviso directs credit on the date of appointment. It is argued that this means as of the date of appointment. If this be true, it is in conflict with the first clause of the act, which makes increased pay begin on June 30. * * *

"Congress must be presumed to have acted before it in framing this legislation the statute already in force, fixing the pay of naval officers by advancing them every five years through three such periods to maximum pay. It enacted, in the statute under consideration, that the officers named, appointed or to be appointed from civil life should have such credit on the date of appointment for one purpose—computing their pay. In the light of the operation of the act as declared in the first clause to begin on the 30th of June following, we think this was meant so far as it applied to officers theretofore appointed, and who were not receiving maximum pay, to give them a credit of the term of five years advancement toward full pay for the purpose of computing compensation after the beginning of the coming fiscal year.

"While the question is not free from difficulty, we cannot escape the conclusion that had Congress intended that this credit should be given, not only for the purpose of computing future pay, but with a view to readjusting past compensation, and giving gratuities for years past, it would have declared its purpose in more distinct terms."

The elaborate argument by Assistant Attorney General Pradt for the United States and the Messrs. King, of Washington, D. C., for the claimant, resulted in a very clear comprehension of the issues involved in the case by the court, although the decision is a great disappointment to many officers, as if favorable, about \$25,000 would have been payable to the officers of the staff corps. It is to be noted that the court considered the "question not free from difficulty," thereby fully justifying the action of the officers in pressing the claim.—Army and Navy Journal.

New Year's Advertiser ready for mailing at 5c each to be had at the office.

Rheumatism

Is a rack on which you need not suffer long.

It depends on an acid condition of the blood, which affects the muscles and joints, causes inflammation and pain, and results from defective digestion and a torpid action of the liver, kidneys and skin. Sciatica, lumbago and stiff neck are forms of it.

"Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured me of rheumatism. I was so I could not lift anything and my knees were so stiff I could hardly get up or down stairs. Since taking three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla I have never felt a symptom of rheumatism, and I gladly recommend Hood's for this disease." Mrs. HATTIE TURNER, Bolivar, Mo.

Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Neutralize the acidity of the blood, perfect digestion and excretion, and radically and permanently cure rheumatism.

Fresh Vegetable Seeds

IN

5ct. Packages

Just Received

Complete Assortment

Hollister Drug Co.

FORT STREET.

THINGS WILL GO WRONG; WHY LEAVE THEM SO?

Better right them now. A little "Looking into" on your own account; not taking too much for granted, will work wonders. Start the year, by supplying your table with solid silver. It is cheap now, but may not be so very long, as silver is steadily rising in price.

We are selling at the old price and will continue to do so, for some time, and as that price is as low as the lowest catalogue price from the States, it will pay you to make your purchases now, and right at home. Take our price list and compare it at your leisure, we know the result. Many patterns to select from. And no remittance with order.

H. F. Wickman & Co., Ltd.
Jewelers and Opticians,
Fort Street.

LOANS!

Made on
Improved Real Estate
Repaid in Monthly Installments

For particulars see

Phoenix Savings, Building and Loan Association,

Judd Building, Honolulu.

Guarantee Capital against loss, \$ 200,000
Subscribed Capital 8,500,000
Paid-up Capital 1,000,000

R. CAMPBELL, Cashier.
H. E. POOCK, General Agent.

The Pacific Hardware Co., Ltd.

CORNER FORT AND MERCHANT STREETS.

SPECIAL FOR THE NEW YEAR

Commencing

MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH,

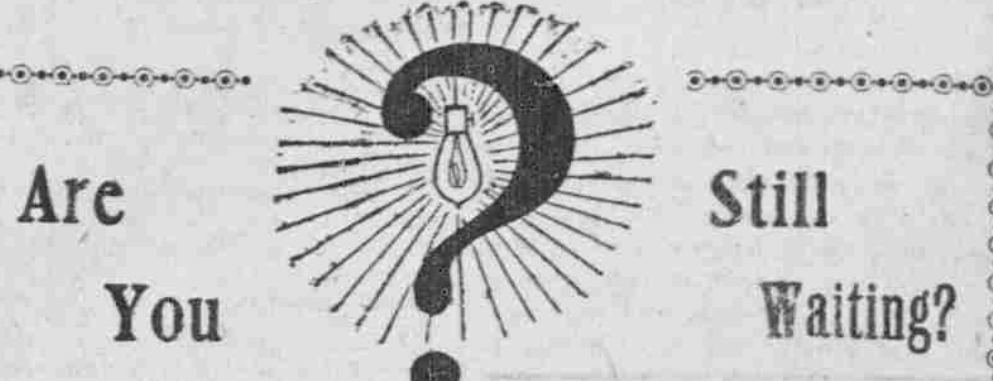
We will sell

100 Dozen **PRESSED GLASS**
Water Tumblers

at only

35 Cts. a Dozen

Regular price, 50 cents a dozen.



Are
You

Still
Waiting?

INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LAMPS are almost indispensable in the home and the cost now is very low. Don't delay availing yourself of the convenience and comfort offered.

HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC Co., Ltd.

Office King near Alakea. Phone Main 390.

J. F. Morgan, President; C. J. Campbell, Vice-President; J. L. McLean, Secretary; A. F. Clark, Treasurer; N. E. Gedge, Auditor; W. H. Hoogs, Manager.

Hustace-Peck Co., Ltd.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
Firewood, Stove, Steam, Blacksmith's Coal
Also Black and White Sand. Telephone Main 295.
Special Attention Given to Draying.

PAINT! PAINT! PAINT!

We are constantly preaching the advantage of using the BEST PAINT—but the half has not been told. It may cost a trifle more in the beginning—in the end it costs less.

S. STEPHENSON, THE PAINTER.

Smoke
Gillman House
Boquet Cigars
BEAVER LUNCH ROOMS
H. J. NOLTE.

Moss and Wire Work
This week at
MRS. TAYLOR'S
Alexander Young Building. Telephone Main 339.

PANAMA HATS CLEANED

By one of the most experienced workmen in the Islands. You will be more than pleased with his work. See sample at **GLOBE CLOTHING CO.**, Hotel street.

Sayegusa

Will sell the balance of his
HOLIDAY STOCK
at a
GREAT SACRIFICE
1120 Nuuanu Just Above Hotel.

Honolulu Mutual Burial Association
J. H. TOWNSEND, Secretary.
Office with the Townsend Undertaking Co. 124 Beretania Street.

FINNAN HADDIES
Today
At Our Delicacy Counter

Tel. Main 45 **Metropolitan Meat Co., LIMITED.** Tel. Main 45

DO YOU KNOW

you can obtain an up-to-date office in the new ALEXANDER YOUNG BUILDING for \$20.00 per month and upwards. The price includes hot and cold water, electric lights and janitor service. The new fireproof warehouse just back of the Young Building is now complete with freight elevator, and storage room may be obtained on application to the agents of the building.

THE VON HAMM-YOUNG CO., LTD.